

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9597

S E C R E T BEIRUT 3350

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, LE, SY, PLO

SUBJECT: 'ARAFAT SEEKS TO COMPOSE SYRIAN/LEBANESE "PROGRESSIVE"
DIFFERENCES

1. BY ALL ACCOUNTS, PLO EXCOM CHAIRMAN, YASSIR 'ARAFAT, HAS DISCOVERED THE ATTRACTIONS AND VIRTUES OF THE MEDIATOR. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM HIS IMMEDIATE TRAVEL PLANS INDEPENDENTLY, BUT ALL MEDIA REPORT 15 APRIL THAT HE WILL DEPART FOR DAMASCUS TODAY IN EFFORT TO BRIDGE WIDENING GAP BETWEEN SYRIANS AND LEBANESE "PROGRESSIVES" HEADED BY JUMBLATT. 'ARAFAT SPENT YESTERDAY IN CONSULTATIONS WITH LEBANESE NOTABLES OF THE LEFT AND PHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH SYRIANS. "'ARAKFAT PLAN" FOR RECONCILIATION WAS REPORTEDLY UNVEILED TO LEBANESE "PROGRESSIVES" EVENING 14 APRIL AND IT IS RUMORED THAT JUMBLATT HAS DELEGATED 'ARAFAT TO SPEAK FOR HIM IN ACHIEVING DENOUEMENT OF CRISIS WITH SYRIA.

2. 'ARAFAT PLAN, AS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PIECE IT TOGETHER FROM PRESS ACCOUNTS AND OTHER LEAKS, IS PREDICATED UPON SYRIAN AGREEMENT TO HOLD THEIR FORCES IN LEBANON IN PRESENT POSITIONS AND NOT REPEAT NOT ESCALATE MILITARY PRESSURE AGAINST THE LEBANESE LEFT. HEART OF ALLEGED PLAN IS CONTAINED IN FOLLOWING THREE POINTS:

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A) ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT ON BASIS OF PRIOR

AGREEMENT ORK COMPROMISE AMONG COMPETING FACTIONS
(PREVIOUS SPECULATION RE 'ARAFAT'S TRIP HAD CENTEGED
ON HIS ALLEGED INTENTION TO COORDINATE SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN
POSITIONS ON IDENTITY OF FRANGIE'S SUCCESSOR).

B) ESTABLISHMENT OF A MIXED COMMISSION (INCLUDING
REPRESENTATIVES OF SYRIA, THE PLO, THE LEBANESE ARMY
(CHRISTIAN AND MOSLEM FACTIONS, AS WELL AS RIGHT-
AND LEFT-WING PARTIES) TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR
RE-ESTABLISHING ORDER AND SECURITY IN LEBANON.

C) COMPLETE OR PARTIAL ABANDONMENT OF FRANGIE'S
"BAABDA DECLARATION" (17 POINTS) OF 14 FEBRUARY WHICH WERE
TO FORM THE BASIS FOR SYRIAN-SPONSORED POLITICAL SOLUTION.
(IT IS POSSIBLE THAT BASIC FIVE POINTS OF ORIGINAL
SYRIAN INITIATIVE, TO WHICH "PROGRESSIVES" FORMALLY
AGREED, WILL BE RETAINED BUT MORE DEEP-SEATED POLITICAL
REFORMS COULD BE ADDED AS A SOP TO JUMBLATT AND HIS
ALLIES.
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